

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 /053 W

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O P 181127Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9410

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 3046

E.O. 11652/ GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJ: FEBRUARY 18, THE 49TH DAY OF THE OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 2976

1. SUMMARY. NO SURVIVORS REPORTED FROM THE FALL OF PEAM REANG ISLAND. BANAM ON THE MEKONG REPORTS GROUND PROBES ON ITS EASTERN PERIMETER. A RELIEF COLUMN IS HALFWAY TO MAUNG RUSSEI, SOUTHEAST OF BATTAMBANG WHERE ISOLATED POCKETS OF FRIENDLY RESISTANCE CONTINUE. THE KC CUT ROUTE 4 EAST OF KOMPONG SPEU. EIGHT ROCKETS LANDED AT POCHENTONG WITH FIVE PEOPLE KILLED AND 11 WOUNDED. END SUMMARY.

2. NO REPORTS OF SURVIVORS FROM THE FALL OF PEAM REANG ISLAND HAVE COME IN. THE KHMER AIR FORCE BOMBED THE POSITION TO ENSURE DESTRUCTION OF THE TWO 105MM HOWITZERS BASED ON THE ISLAND. FOUR BATTALIONS ARE NOW CHARGED WITH DEFENDING FANK'S WEST BANK GARRISON JUST NORTH OF THE ISLAND. THE EFFORT TO RETAKE DEI DOS ENDED AND THE NAVY EXTRACTED THE BATTALION COMMITTED TO RETAKE THAT FALLEN CHOKEPOINT POSITION. WITH THE FALL OF PEAM REANG, THE KC HAS MANAGED TO DESTROY A FANK BRIGADE EQUIVALENT AS THEY

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REDUCED THREE CHOKEPOINT GARRISONS IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

FANK FAILED PARTLY BY PIECEMEAL COMMITMENT OF BATTALIONS AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF POOR LEADERSHIP ON THE GROUND.

3. BANAM, NORTH OF NEAK LUONG ON THE MEKONG, REPORTS FEW CASUALTIES FROM ATTACKS AGAINST SEVEN OF ITS EASTERN PERIMETER POSITIONS. NEAK LUONG ITSELF HAS EXPERIENCED AN INCREASE IN HEAVY CALIBER (120 MM MORTAR AND 105MM HOWITZER) ATTACKS BY FIRE. AT PREY VENG, THE KC LOST 15 KILLED AND 25 WOUNDED IN ATTACKS FEBRUARY 17. FANK DEFENDERS SEIZED MANY WEAPONS, MUCH AMMUNITION AND EQUIPMENT.

4. AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER-SUPPORTED RELIEF COLUMN FROM BATTAMBANG IS HALF THE 35KM DISTANCE TO MAUNG RUSSEI AND A SMALLER ARMOR-REINFORCED FORCE IS PUSHING NORTH FROM PURSAT. AT LATE REPORT FRIENDLY POCKETS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT IN THE KEY AGRICULTURAL CENTER.

5. THE KC CUT ROUTE 4 BETWEEN KOMPONG SPEU AND PHNOM PENH LATE FEBRUARY 17.

6. NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH, THE 7TH DIVISION AREA CONTINUES TO RECEIVE GROUND ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE. ALL POSITIONS OF THE NEIGHBORING 5TH BRIGADE CAME UNDER ATTACK AT MIDDAY FEBRUARY 18.

7. EIGHT ROCKETS LANDED AT POCHENTONG; ONE HIT NEAR THE POCHENTONG MARKET KILLING FIVE PEOPLE AND WOUNDING 11. DEAN

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